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Monthly



Planet

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cartoons by
RICK GAUGER

THE MONTHLY PLANET is published twice a quarter by the Associated Students Environmental Center. We strive to inform, entertain and stimulate thought on environmental issues. **We do not aim to be free of opinion, only to print any opinion.** The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the A.S., the Environmental Center or our advertisers.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE !!

You are most welcome to submit letters-to-the-editor, articles, poetry. Your comments and critique are eagerly awaited. The deadline for submissions to our next issue is April 25th.

Congratulations!

to participants in the Environmental Center Earth Day Art Contest!!!!!!!

Winner: LAURA BITZES (her work graces our back page)

Honorable Mentions: Brian Cloudhopper, Karen Murphy and Tracy Rau.



P. Hogenbart

Word Magic

By John Brown

Language plays an important role in every person's life. Language is a medium of expression that allows us to interact with one another in productive forms; we communicate with one another and stimulate thought. However, have you ever realized that language is used to change meaning, and to inhibit thought and the communication process?

"Word magic" is a term coined by author Garrett Hardin to define the act of hiding actual word meanings behind less offensive words in our vocabulary. Language is used to be descriptive. It is also used, in its descriptive form, to coerce or confuse us.

What meaning comes to mind with the word **pesticide**? Just looking at the word "pest" and knowing that a pesticide is some type of substance that kills, you may assume it kills unwanted bugs or rodents. In essence, it's a descriptive word that leads you to believe that the substance only kills unwanted things. Actually, a pesticide is a destructive substance that not only affects unwanted species, but also wanted species. The word pesticide does not allow you to understand the consequences involved with its application. A better word would be **biocide**. It would not allow for the misconception that these substances aren't affecting the whole biological community.

Another interesting word that hides behind the shelter of word magic is **development**. The word development comes from embryology. It describes the process of something growing from its primary stage to the stage of adulthood or the climax stage. This implies that development is inevitable. A child develops into an adult, a kitten into a cat and so on. However, real-estate operators and construction firms hide behind the curtain of word magic calling themselves "developers". They play upon underlying connotations of the word. They see the "development" of land as inevitable and they would like you to see it that way, too. This allows real-estate operators and construction firms an avenue to develop a piece of land into its "climax stage", which is a building, parking lot, or other man made structure. Is this really development? Or, is it just another word for destruction and defacement of our limited natural surroundings?

The next time you see or hear descriptive terms being used, ask yourself, "Is that the true meaning, or, is it being used as a device to coerce? Word magic is a powerful tool used to shape ideas and perceptions. It will continually be used, but with a little conscious effort you can realize the subliminal meaning of such terms and come to question their validity.



Vancouver Peace March

By Douglas Dobyns

There were 75,000 people marching across the bridges of Vancouver on a rainy Sunday afternoon in this year's peace march, but only about half of them went inside the B.C. Place Stadium to hear the speakers. In years past, when up to 115,000 people have marched in the annual affirmation of their wish for a peaceful world, the march has ended at the English Bay Park for an outdoor celebration. In B.C. Place, a great many people can meet, but it is impossible to celebrate.

There were speeches by the Mayor of Vancouver, Mike Hancourt, and his alderman, Harry Rankin ---making political hay out of an event that used to belong to the people. Perhaps fortunately, the acoustics in the stadium were so bad that most of the words were lost in electronic echoes. Unfortunately, a very fine speech by Joan Ruddock from Britain was lost for the same reason. There is a big screen in the stadium on which the speakers were shown, so it was possible to make out some of the words by lip reading --- until the screen was filled with huge slogans and requests for donations.

Three Indians gave a prayer which almost achieved silence under the dome, but the spirit which should have lifted the hearts of the people got lost in the concrete.

The Mayor of Vancouver prides himself on the "Peace Capital of Canada" and talks about having a nuclear-weapons free zone--- and yet violations of this edict take place all the time. His statements cheapened the attempt to make this edict into a statement against the economic and military machinery that dominates the banking system (and is embraced in Vancouver). There were some good banners and a lot of people with good intentions, but the peace march of Vancouver was a bust this year.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (held in Vancouver) which Canada is allowing to go by without commemoration. Instead there is a garish little exhibit called EXPO to sop up the surplus cash of the warlike culture in North America. When the tenth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference was observed in 1982, Sweden put on a review of the status of the environment, and significant international agreements were made, such as on the control of acid rain.

To bad, Vancouver. A bust.

Shannon Point

By Kimberley Peterson

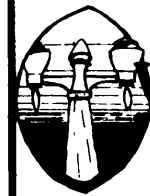
Many people are not aware that Western has access to a Marine research center. The Shannon Point Marine Center (SPMC) is a biological reserve and research center that is available to the faculty and students of WWU. SPMC is located in Anacortes (about an hours drive from Western's campus) near the state Ferry terminal that services the San Juan Islands. Classes are offered annually in the Spring through the Huxley and Biology departments. This quarter some of the classes in session include: Marine Biology, Marine Ecology, Oceanography and Marine Ecosystems Analysis.

Western belongs to a consortium of colleges that use the Shannon Point facilities. The other public institutions with membership to the consortium are, Central Washington Univ., Eastern Washington Univ., Edmonds, Everette and Skagit Valley Community Colleges, and the Evergreen State College. These other colleges often visit the campus of SPMC for field trips, seminars, and conferences.

The SPMC was designed as a research center as well as a teaching facility. Now it is primarily being used for teaching purposes, with most of the research being carried on by the faculty. Shannon Point has a moderate climate and a variety of available marine life which allows research can be conducted year round.

The Leona Sundquist Marine Laboratory is the marine facility where the research is conducted. This laboratory contains such equipment as, pH meters, salinity meters, a spectrophotometer, as well as other standard lab equipment. The lab has at least 50 seawater tables which are supplied with running seawater to enable the study of seawater organisms. There are also six outboard powered boats, along with a 35-foot cruising vessel, the Leona 3, available for such things as collecting marine samples and for other research needs.

If you are interested in taking classes at Shannon Point you should contact someone at the Huxley or Biology departments. The classes offered during the summer session vary from year to year.



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Hanford.....on the Inside

By Michael Kane

I'm not used to this kind of energy. Somber camouflaged men with Uzis watching us walk through the metal detector ... Having to show picture ID six different times... Driving through truck-bomb barricades... Putting my hands and feet into a radiation detector.

Plutonium is no longer just a word, but a real thing, and judging by the security, close.

Hanford... some distant place out in the desert. It always seemed like a word in a newspaper article, until I went there. Then it became real. Those guns were real, the guards serious and the Plutonium close by.

On Thursday, April 10, I toured the Hanford Nuclear Reservation with Dr. Ruth Weiners' Environmental and Energy Issues class. Hanford is located on 570 square miles of semi-arid desert, near the

Tri-Cities. It employs 14,000 people with a \$ 1 Billion Federal budget. We were there to learn about the disposal of high-level defense waste.

I am still sorting through the ideas and images from Hanford. The ideas continue to evolve, but the images have a certain clarity;

... The Department of Energy geologist with his brown polyester suit and tie and mirrored aviator glasses, looking more like the classic '50's FBI agent. A good public-relations man. Personable, friendly and adept at evading my question about intentional Iodine releases in the 1960's and 70's.

...An amphibious assault vehicle waiting like an impatient prehistoric turtle to enter the 300 area.

...Plush conference rooms with comfortable chairs, rugs and separate

slide projector rooms. In one of those rooms we watched the *HANFORD YESTERDAY AND TODAY* videotape: a history of Hanford from its start in 1944 producing Plutonium for the Manhattan Project to the present.

...The overweight Community Relations Specialist from Battelle, responding to a vegetarians dismay at finding only meat sandwiches for lunch: "Well I can take you out on the lawn!"

...Then there is J.Z. asking these long-winded, yet probing questions no one was immediately capable of answering.

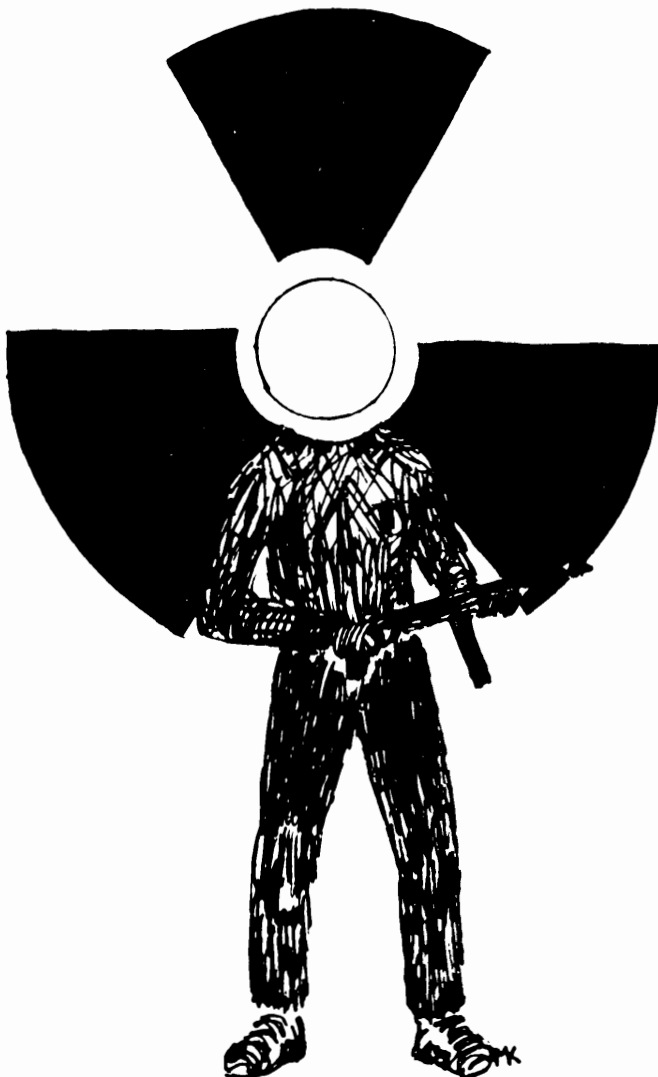
Besides the Uzi-toting guards, the strongest image is from the Hot Cells. The Hot Cells are the location of ceramic ovens used to convert liquid radioactive waste into a glass by heating it to 1100 degrees celcius. Hanford is presently conducting intense research into the possibility of converting high-level radioactive waste into different forms. To view the ovens we entered a large room through a door sporting a red radioactive symbol. As I entered the room, a conspicuous looking object adjacent to the door caught my eye.

Our tour guide informed me it detected radioactive particles on hands and feet. "Uh huh." Scenes from the movie, "Silkwood," flashed into my head.

We were shown a model of the ovens and then looked at the real thing through thick glass panes. Before leaving the room I stepped on the afore mentioned radiation detector, put my hands in the slot and hoped to hell no buzzers would sound. Our group made it out of the room without triggering any buzzers and we proceeded with the tour.

Near the Plutonium and Uranium Extraction Facility (PUREX), we stopped next to a massive excavation. In one corner of the hole, resting atop concrete blocks, sat a 30x40 foot section from a decommissioned Polaris submarine. The nuclear reactor compartment waited in its grave to be joined later by others. During the drive back to Richland, we returned our I.D. badges with dosimeters (radiation detector) on the back to the tour guide.

Hanford is not just a name in a newspaper article. The disposal of high-level defense waste is an important issue and touring the Hanford Reservation provided me with an insight into the potential problems from using Hanford as a disposal site. Even if Hanford isn't chosen as a disposal site, the problem of defense waste disposal will still be with us, deserving of our interest and attention.



Concrete Octopus Eats Planet !!can we stop it?

By Robin Mortimer

Downtown....images of crowds, traffic, industrial areas, and skyscrapers immediatly come to mind. Walking on sidewalks while bumping shoulders, crossing busy streets, running for taxi's, being late for business luncheons. City noises fill the air and a sea of concrete, brick, and stone rises high above the asphalt and litter underfoot.

How nice it would be to find a restful spot to enjoy lunch. A park bench in the shade of a blossoming cherry tree surrounded by grass and flowers... a welcomed break from the concrete jungle. Such spots are blatently missing from most urban areas.

Until recently the layout of most cities was a result of planning for population booms. The planner opted for bits and pieces of functionality rather than comprehensive plans which included aesthetics. Instead of acknowledging the importance of man's relation to air, water, soil, and other life forms as the oldest and most basic of man's relations, most planning methods devote their technology to finding means of displacing natural systems with artificial substitutes.

These substitutes produce a city scape that is hard; visually and sensually.

Having most natural systems so removed from inner city life adversely affects the human psyche. What is it that is so pleasing about having live plants at home and the office? Humans are evolved in nature and our brains are "wired-in" to the natural environment. But in today's urban society we are isolated from natural systems by living in a man made, or "built" environment. We are constantly being pushed to perform tasks and take in massive amounts of information.

Because we are isolated from nature, and are trying to meet the demands of our society we may be stressing the human system beyond its limits. Where we once died from infectious diseases we are now subject to degenerative diseases (heart disease, ulcers) triggered by stress of the modern urban lifestyle, diet, and exposure to toxic materials.

What is it about that "get-away" to the mountains or the ocean that makes us feel so refreshed? It is very important to meet our biological and mental needs for contact with nature.

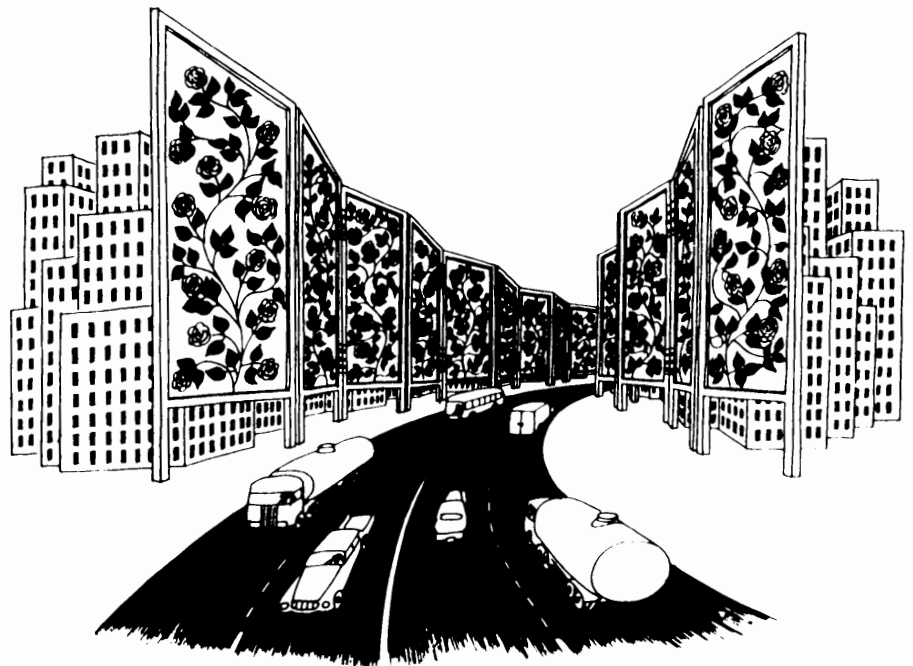


Illustration : Gabor Benedek

One way to meet those needs is to reconstruct the "built" environment to bring in nature. Reconstruction can be approached at two levels; large scale urban planning and a smaller scale at home.

At the urban scale we can start by replanning areas of the city that are already falling apart. The new plan would incorporate "green" areas. A green area could have trees, shrubs, flowers, and pedestrian walkways. Many European cities, in downtown areas, have wide pedestrian streets where no motorized traffic is allowed. Trees, shrubs, flowers, and resting benches in these areas makes shopping or doing business very pleasing. Some larger "green" areas could be set aside for parks and wilderness. (Wilderness meaning areas thick with trees and plants native to the area.) If space doesn't permit, there are always roof top parks. There are a couple of great roof top parks in downtown Vancouver, B.C.

On a smaller scale, having plants at home is a start. In the face of an escalating cost of living, who wouldn't want to be more self-reliant? The more we can provide for ourselves, the less we have to rely on store bought goods. Small

scale gardening is a fun and fulfilling way to become more independent and increase contact with nature. Last year, my roommate and I had a garden at the local community plot. Initially, I wasn't too enthused about how much time I thought I would have to invest in the garden. But the more time I spent there, the more enjoyable and therapeutic digging around in the earth became. Tending the garden became a welcome excuse to drop other daily duties. There is nothing like eating just picked tomatoes, or lettuce, or peas ... and they taste that much better because you know your efforts produced them.

If a garden seems like too big of a project, try planting herbs in windowsill pots or even a couple of tomato plants along side your house. (They like the warmth from a building). Besides vegetable gardens, you could plant ornamental crops (fruit trees, and herbs), do beekeeping, aquaculture (raising fish), and even raise rabbits or chickens.

Increased contact with natural systems will reduce some of the stress placed on people today. If we reintroduce nature into the human environment, we will create a more satisfying lifestyle.

"Where did THAT come from?" How Developments Get The "Okay" from the City

By Susanne Stevens

Some people would be shocked and angered if they found out that a municipal dump was going to be put in next to their neighborhood. "How could the city allow this! How come I never heard about this! It's too late now." What most people do not know, is that every development proposal is announced in the public notice section of the Bellingham Herald. This is only a part of the required procedure to get a permit to develop. In this article I will tell you briefly how developments get the "okay" from the city, what you could do and how you could take part. I got this information from a interview with one of the Bellingham City Planners.

If the owner of some property within the city limits decides she wants to develop the property in any way (i.e. a shopping mall, an apartment complex, etc.), she must file for a permit. Permit filing is done at the Planning and Economic Development Department. It is downtown at City Hall on Lottie Street.

When the developer comes in to the Planning office, they are told by a City Planner which regulations apply to the

proposed development. The major regulations that affect proposed developments in Bellingham are: building codes; The Shoreline Management Act; environmental regulations, such as the State Environmental Policy Act; and the zoning requirements found in the Bellingham Comprehensive and Neighborhood Plans. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that their proposed development is in compliance with these regulations. Until there is complete compliance, a permit will not be given. A delay in permit dispersal is a result of poor preparation on the part of the developer. The City Planners play the role of making sure developers follow the rules and regulations. If a development occurs, it is because it was in accordance to all regulations made by our public representatives.

A spectrum of applicants and their proposed developments go through the permit process. Some easily flow through; others get tied up. The average time it takes to get a permit through the process is thirty to ninety days.

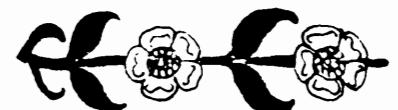
Most areas presently developable in

Bellingham are zoned planned. This means that developers must apply for a special site plan permit. Not only does the proposed development have to comply with the applicable regulations; but it also must be approved by the City Council. The City Council has the jurisdiction to give or deny a permit. The Planning Commission, appointed by the Mayor has an indirect influence on the proposal. The members are allowed to make suggestions to the City Council at the time of permit review. In any event the public is represented at all times. The City Council members, who are elected, and the Planning Commission members, who are appointed by an elected mayor, both serve as extensions of the public will. The public will is only known if individuals participate in the voting process and follow up with calls and letters to the elected representatives. All City Council meetings are open to the public. As well as having the times and content of City Council permit review meetings in the paper, a schedule of times and agendas of the City Council meetings are available at the City Hall.

Unfortunately, most people do not care to be aware about land use decisions unless it directly effects them, (i.e. a garbage dump next door). But this is an ironic attitude because a development may occur in one portion of a town or city butt another nonadjacent portion may be adversely affected as well. An example of this is increased traffic through a city because of the construction of a shopping mall.

Development in a city does not magically happen. A legal process is followed before permits to build are given. The public does have direct and indirect input into this process.

For More Information on this process and what you can do call the Bellingham Planning and Economic Development Department at 676-6982.





The Phoenix Rises Economic Regeneration

By Randall Brower

Regenerating America : Meeting the
Challenge of Building Local Economies.
Rodale Press, Inc.

33 E Minor St. Emmaus, Penn.

The United States has experienced a decline in its ability to function in the modern world. This inability can be traced to numerous factors. The most important of these is the enormous centralized system of production and distribution, which requires an energy input far exceeding that which is necessary, desirable or even rational. The most dramatic effect of this centralized economic system on the local economy is the outward flow of dollars. Not only does this reduce the amount of money in the local economy, it also hurts the local food producer. It ties the consumer into dependency on food transported from distant regions, at a great cost of energy. Recognizing the vulnerability of the local economy and its dependent community has led to the vision of economic regeneration.

Economic Regeneration, as a community development program, is defined in Regenerating America : Meeting the Challenge of Building Local Economies. It is a "locally organized and controlled regional economic development that utilizes local resources, goods and services to meet local needs in an ecologically, technologically, socially and economically regenerative" way".

Some of the elements of this system of economic redevelopment are :

1) an organization determined and correctable by local residents through participatory democracy,

2) a conscious move towards local self-reliance (replacing regional imports with locally produced substitutes),

3) the development of local markets, community exchange, trading or barter as a means of community value enrichment.

4) limits of activity defined by regional ecology and culture.

5) the strengthening of civic ideals, structures and institutions through citizen participation in local affairs.

These elements and others combine to form the framework of economic regeneration.

The vision of regenerating the local economy is within the realm of reality. But, as with all social visions, it requires the members of the community to contribute their time and energy. You and I, not the anonymous citizen, must work to see the process of regeneration occur. We are the one's who must uphold the necessary values of this transformation.

The concept of economic regeneration is the product of The Regeneration Project. Interested parties should get a hold of their book.

* * Regenerate; 1. Reborn; brought again into existence; formed anew. 2. In religious use- spiritually reborn. 3. Biologically, the replacement by an organism of parts of the body which have been lost or severely injured.

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Fresh Garbage

Cultivating responsibility

By Colleen Majors



Very few members of our society concern themselves about where their trash is destined. After all, it's only garbage. Every week a fresh batch is cultivated and then whisked away by our infamous sanitary engineers. On the other hand, some of these same people are concerned about the environmental conditions in which they live: the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat. Often I've heard reference to how bad the smog is by someone who drives a car (myself guilty). So what's the connection? Garbage is garbage and air is air.

The amount of garbage we generate will directly contribute to the quality of our future living conditions. Our garbage is a major contributor to water and air pollution. Here in Bellingham, 500 tons a week of solid waste is incinerated. Whatcom County has approximately 175 tons a week diverted to landfills. Incineration emits poisonous dioxins into the air and landfills tend to leach toxins into the groundwater. The matter is further complicated by the increase of 2% (by weight) per year of waste needed to be discarded. Whatcom County's Cedarville landfill site has reached its capacity and will be closed in January 1987.

Also, there is an unnoticed indirect pollution caused by our garbage. The more that is consumed by our populus and discarded, the more energy and raw resources (petroleum, bauxite, forests, tin, coal) are exploited at the expense of the biosphere. Plastics do not decompose and it takes years for aluminum and glass to break down.

This problem not only affects our health, but it will soon affect our garbage bills. As

applied in basic economics, the cost of this service reflects an insufficient supply (closing landfills) with the excessive demand (tons of garbage). Consumers will be footing the bill.

Another dilemma of this waste problem is the opposition of big business and some private recycling firms to establish a law for deposits and returns on refillable containers. The nine states that now have mandatory beverage container deposit laws recycle about 90% of their beverage containers. This is an indication that people will recycle when monetary incentives are offered.

An essay by Wendell Berry titled "The Reactor and the Garden" elaborates on social responsibility. In summary, Berry states: "...it is futile to attempt to correct a public wrong without correcting the sources of that wrong in yourself." In other words, complaints about the smog can not be justified by one who owns and drives a car.

The structure of society complicates matters worse. We have been trained to rely on our cars, to buy unnecessary items, and to accumulate enough trash for the weekly collection. But I would like to suggest an alternative to our over-consuming society which could greatly decrease environmental pollution, something we all could contribute to. **Recycling.**

We are all too familiar with this term, but let me point out some substantial facts: 1) 20% more aluminum cans can be recycled using the same amount of energy to make one new can, 2) 100 acres of forest are used to produce one Sunday edition of the New York Times, 3) 10% - 50% of the price of a product goes to packaging, 4) the

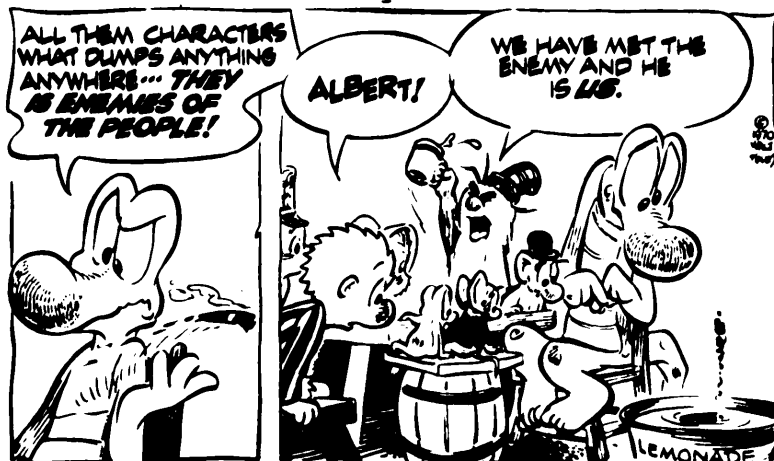
1983 New York state bottle deposit bill has prevented over \$65 million in litter and disposal costs and created 3,800 new jobs, and 5) more than 50 million Americans live in communities whose nearby landfills will be exhausted in the next three years.

Living in a small community such as Bellingham has many advantages. Information seems more easily obtainable and cooperation more likely. Our accessibility to recycling opportunities are abundant. We have several newspaper drop centers throughout the city. The Associated Students Recycling Center here on Western's campus accepts household waste from used motor oil to discarded cereal boxes and beer and ketch-up bottles. But most remarkable is that 53% of Bellingham's residence can enjoy the convenience of a recycling pick-up service.

Bellingham Community Recycling (BCR) is a non-profit organization dedicated to make recycling easier for the consumer, to help solve this problem of excessive waste. Carol Rondello, one of the founding daughters (1982) and currently the Publicity / Education Coordinator of BCR (thanks to city subsidies) says this program is unique in that it is the largest and most successful recycling pick-up service in the state of Washington. Community members now have a chance to put their money where their mouth is, so to speak. Using BCR's service to divert waste will conserve our valuable natural raw resources, decrease pollution, and reduce our garbage costs.

There are other ways consumers can reduce waste. Composting household food wastes will nourish vegetable and flower beds. Waste can be reduced by becoming a more conscientious consumer. For example, choose items that use recyclable packaging (cardboard/paper vs. plastic), buy food in bulk using recycled baggies and sacks, and, simply, don't buy things you don't need. Instead of throwing away old clothes, useless (to you!) tools and other various household items, trade or donate them to the needy.

These are just some simple suggestions to correct the sources of that wrong which will ultimately help us all. If we will challenge our present social structure, perhaps our environment will be more appreciative and accomodating. Otherwise, garbage in, garbage out!



Interview: Mayor Tim Douglas Bellingham's approach to recycling

By Al Arkills

Tim Douglas, mayor of the City of Bellingham, and former WWU Dean of Students officially proclaimed the week of April 19-27, as SPRING RALLY CLEANUP AND RECYCLING WEEK. In this annual event, the Mayor urged all citizens in the community to join in this Spring Rally cleanup, recycling and beautification effort, and to continue their dedication to such efforts throughout the year.

This year's Rally included over 20 events involving people of all ages and much of the community in the clean-up, recycling and beautification effort.

To help with this Spring Rally, which is part of a state-wide event, Mayor Douglas assigned Bellingham's Department of Public Works Solid Waste Manager Bill Englander, as the Spring Rally Coordinator. Along with his many other responsibilities, Bill releases frequent departmental news letters and a quarterly publication entitled Ecologic. In Ecologic there are numerous suggestions for maintaining a better environment.

In an interview with Mayor Douglas and Bill Englander discussed Bellingham's goals and programs with the Monthly Planet. Special emphasis was placed on the desire to innovate and initiate environmentally helpful programs in addition to those required by law.

PLANET: HOW DID THE PUBLICATION ECOLOGIC GET STARTED?

ENGLANDER: I was originally hired to manage the Solid Waste Disposal Project which was cancelled last summer. I received a new position as Solid Waste Program Manager and emphasis shifted from disposal projects to full-blown promotional educational projects regarding waste reduction recycling

programs. The City set some goals and objectives a few years ago to incorporate waste reduction recycling into our waste management policies. Last summer we began concentrating on implementing those goals.

The publication Ecologic was part of the program that I laid out for this coming budget year as a means of getting information to the public, as a broad overview, on the topics of waste management in general, on waste reduction and recycling, and geared to citizen involvement. Distribution is made at area grocery stores such as Fred Meyers, Cost Cutter, K-Mart, Tony's Coffee House, Fairhaven and up at the University. 300 to 500 copies are printed and made free to the public with each issue.

PLANET: MAYOR, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS PROGRAM HAS YOUR FULL ENDORSEMENT!

MAYOR DOUGLAS: What we want to see happen is a growing level of awareness in the community about reducing waste generally, and that not only has to do obviously, with the recycling, but if you could really reach people at a time when they were taking the information in and understanding it, you could probably help them change some of their consuming patterns so that they produce less waste to in the first place. I see some of those things as pretty idealistic and very long-range at this point. Sometimes, those who are especially eager about environmental issues put all of their energy into changing the universe. I think what you should do is to try to figure out where people are and how to reach them.

The goal of Bill's program, in working with Bellingham Community Recycling (BCR), has been to make recycling as convenient as possible. Our curb-side recycling program and the hazardous material collection center are based on the belief that the more convenient and easy you can make it for people to do environmentally sensitive things the more likely they are to participate.

The Ecologic is also geared toward information. I've heard people comment that after reading the first issue (that dealt with waste-oil recycling) their eyes were opened as to the negative aspects of oil in the environment. They didn't realize that oil was very harmful; that it contained toxic materials and that if it was dumped in the backyard it might get into the drinking water somehow. People failed to make a

connection between what they were doing as far as waste management, and the resulting problems. So I am trying to fill in that gap between what the consumer is aware of and the problems that he reads about in the newspaper. There is a link.

PLANET: WHAT HAS BEEN THE RECYCLING CENTER'S FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE?

MAYOR DOUGLAS: Most of us believe that recycling at best would be "break-even" and actually is something that has to be subsidized. The most difficult thing, I think, other than just logistics such as BCR being able to put together a program, is building public awareness so that there is political support to do it.

So far, the political support is very fervent but it's still a fairly small group of people. It is still taking quite a sales job to convince the legislative decision-makers that they should support a program that doesn't have a dollar turn around or that may help an individual homeowner reduce his costs a little bit but doesn't save any money directly for the City. Even the program that we have, using recycling as an example, is a pilot project. We need to be able to demonstrate the results of that enough to convince future councils to continue to support BCR programs. On the presumption that such programs are workable we would then incrementally increase the scope of that program."

Mayor Douglas, who serves on one of the Advisory Committees for the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, mentioned that the City of Bellingham is engaged in water quality projects beyond what is mandated by the state and federal government. The Mayor pointed out that such activities establish the City's environmental stance both locally and regionally. He considered this environmental leadership very important as the City approaches such major problems as the secondary treatment requirements of Bellingham Bay.

The Mayor also foresees the possibility for the City of Everett and Huxley College to establish a committee to study water quality issues for the Nooksack Watershed.

From this interview, it appears that the City of Bellingham's "Spring Rally" is just the tip of the iceberg. The year-around programs display the City's genuine interest in developing community awareness and participation in a clean and sustainable environment.

Recycling Resources:

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS RECYCLING CENTER...open seven days a week, dawn to dusk..... 678-3088

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY RECYCLE: 733-6307

THE ECOLOGIC.... Available in V.U. 113, and 227, grocery stores and from Bill Englander, Bellingham Public Works 676-9701

NORTHWEST RECYCLING: 733-0100

Nuclear Accidents.....Who Pays?

By Teresa Hertz

Imagine living near a nuclear power plant or along a nuclear fuel transport route when an accident occurs. It's a bad feeling knowing that this could happen and you could be one of the many victims of such a disaster. Worse still knowing that the nuclear industry and the Federal government are limited in their financial liability -- beyond a certain point, no one is responsible for compensating the victims. The law that puts a limit on liability is the Price Anderson Nuclear Insurance Act.

The act was passed in 1957 to spur investment in commercial nuclear power and has been amended and renewed twice since. If Congress doesn't renew it again it will expire in August 1987. according to the provisions of the act the maximum amount of compensation the nuclear industry is required to pay is 640 million, while the federal government is limited to 500 million for government activities. This remains the case even though health and property losses resulting from a nuclear accident could exceed billions of dollars. Strangely enough, liability is limited even if the accident is caused by recklessness or criminal negligence. Designers, parts

suppliers, reactor manufacturers, and government contractors are all held harmless for any damages to the public.

What would happen if car manufacturers weren't held accountable for the products they put out? What incentive would they have to turn out a safe product?

If we want to be protected from the devastation of a nuclear accident we need to end the special privileges the Price-Anderson Act grants the nuclear industry. Many national organizations concerned with the environment are campaigning to end the current liability limits. They have three main priorities. The first is victim compensation, so that anyone injured by a nuclear accident would be compensated for all losses. The second is corporate responsibility, which would hold all those who create nuclear risks responsible for accidents. The third priority is to protect taxpayers from bearing the ultimate responsibility to pay.

Two bills which meet the above priorities are the Stafford and Metzenbaum bills. Two bills similar to the Price Anderson Act have been submitted that would limit liability and allow negligent companies to escape penalty; the

Simpson - McClure and Udall bills.

At the beginning of April the Senate Energy Committee began consideration of the Price Anderson Act. Recently, they passed an ammendment to the Metzenbaum bill disallowing punitive action that would have required the Department of Energy (DOE) to sue its contractors when negligent.

Nearly 300 DOE facilities pose significant nuclear hazards and 23 states have been selected for possible high level nuclear waste disposal. As residents of Washington state we have strong reasons to be concerned about our protection - Hanford is one such site.

Your efforts are needed to make sure the Price Anderson Act is not renewed. Urge your congressional representatives to oppose the Price - Anderson Act and to support legislation which establishes full liability for nuclear accidents and protects taxpayers from paying the costs of any accidents.



How to voice your opinion

WRITE OR CALL YOUR SENATORS:

Daniel Evans Seattle: 206-442-0350
3206 Federal Bldg
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174
Slade Gorton Seattle: 206-442-5545
2968 Federal Bldg
(as above)

WRITE / CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

Al Swift Bellingham: 206-733-4500
104 W. Magnolia St.
Bellingham WA 98225



The Not - So - Superfund

By Craig Day

Superfund, the \$1.6 billion trust fund provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for responding to and cleaning abandoned hazardous waste sites, ran out of funding at the end of fiscal year 1985 (September 30th). Congress has yet to reauthorize and re-fund another 5-year Superfund program and has only managed to provide short-term stop-gap funding to merely keep the program in existence. Superfund's tainted history and EPA's lack of substantial progress in its use of the Superfund has helped make it extremely difficult for Congress to pass a complete reauthorization of this program. At issue is not just re-funding the program, but restructuring it to require and enable EPA to make real progress in its battle against hazardous waste.

Superfund was created in 1980 when Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in response to environmental disasters such as Love Canal. Under CERCLA, Superfund was established, financed mainly by a tax on oil and petrochemicals. It was this authority to tax oil and petrochemical companies which expired on September 30, 1985 putting Superfund into the position it is now.

In 1980, it was assumed that the problem of abandoned hazardous waste sites was relatively small and manageable. Congress authorized the use of Superfund to pay for the cleanup of hazardous dumps when those responsible for dumping the wastes could not be found. CERCLA also directed EPA to go after responsible parties and make them pay for cleanups whenever possible.

Since 1980, it has become alarmingly clear that the problem of abandoned hazardous waste sites is one of massive proportions that will take billions of dollars to correct. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment now estimates that there may be as many as 10,000 dangerous waste dump sites around the country that will cost as much as \$100 billion to clean. There has been almost universal agreement that the relatively modest resources made available to EPA under the 1980 CERCLA will have to be greatly expanded.

In addition to the widespread recognition that hazardous waste dumps pose an enormous and costly environmental problem, EPA's response to this challenge has been sharply

criticized for good reasons: To date, only six sites on EPA's National Priority List (NPL) have been cleaned and many critics charge that some of these still need further work. Also, allegations of mismanagement, sweetheart deals that let polluters off the hook, and political manipulation of the Superfund led to the resignation in 1983 of more than 20 top EPA officials including Administrator Anne Burford and Assistant Administrator Rita Lavelle, who ended up serving a jail term for her official actions. This lack of progress and subsequent political scandal involving Superfund are some of the factors making its timely reauthorization difficult for Congress.

The Reagan Administration has proposed a Superfund reauthorization program at a level of \$5.3 billion over the next five years, a level most observers and environmentalists feel is completely inadequate. Last year, before Superfund's taxing authority expired, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (323 to 33) to greatly expand the Superfund program, authorizing more than \$10 billion over another five years. Unfortunately, this measure was never considered by the Senate and proceeded no further. The Senate did approve a \$7.5 billion five-year Superfund bill (S51) last September before the initial authorization expired. Action in the House was not as prompt. Another House bill (H.R.2817) involved at least two different versions because of the different committees which considered the bill. Stop-gap funding had to be provided last Fall to prevent the shutdown of Superfund. Meanwhile, extensive negotiations between the Energy and Commerce and Public Works committees' versions of H.R. 2817 began. Some of the major differences between these committees' versions were in the areas of scheduling and standards for cleanups, methods of re-funding, and the amount of re-funding.

After weeks of negotiations and debate on these and many other issues, the House finally reported a compromise version of H.R. 2817 on December 4th.

These lengthy negotiations involved before a compromise could be reached in the House were a foreshadowing of the political stall that Superfund's reauthorization is in now. Because each house of Congress has passed a different bill (S51, H.R. 2817) on Superfund, a conference committee with members of

both houses had to be created. Conference committees hopefully reconcile the differences between the two bills so that a single bill can be reported to the floor for a final vote. Superfund has been stalled in conference over the differences between S.51 and H.R. 2817 since Congress reconvened last January. The size of this committee is comparatively large (60 Members: 43 Representatives and 17 Senators) as are the number and complexity of the issues which still have to be resolved. At issue is not just the amount of re-funding, but how to re-fund, and more importantly, how to restructure the Superfund program to make it more efficient in meeting the challenge of nationwide hazardous wastes. Congress is involved with these time consuming negotiations and debates to provide EPA with proper authorization and guidelines to enable them to make real progress in cleaning up the many hazardous waste sites and to prevent further mismanagement and misuse of Superfund.

The lengthy political battle over Superfund's reauthorization has taken its toll on EPA's toxic waste cleanup program. Since the initial authorization expired, EPA has been forced to cut back on the number of sites they can respond to and personnel involved with toxic waste cleanup.

EPA's funding gap has also decreased their ability to take remedial actions against polluters they can identify as responsible. EPA is currently budgeting \$5 million a month for emergency removals and sites at the very top of their NPL.

On March 24, Congress found it necessary to pass a joint resolution providing EPA with \$150 million as still another stop-gap measure to prevent the April 1st shutdown threatened by Administrator Lee Thomas.

EPA has expressed concern that the timespan involved in obtaining reauthorization for Superfund is slowing the "momentum" of their toxic waste cleanup program. One has to wonder how much "momentum" is involved in cleaning only six major sites in five years. We can only hope that that the long time that Congress is spending will result in a much more effective program. The time-consuming political maneuvers and negotiations hopefully, illustrate not only the number and complexity of issues involved, but also a concern by Congress to revitalize CERCLA to provide a better program than the last not-so-Superfund.

Battle of the Century Hetch Hetchy Valley and America's Awakening

By John Pavitt

"The Century was the pioneer in the fight for forest preservation and for many years was the only magazine that stimulated or even gave attention to the growing movement." - Robert Underwood Johnson
Remembered Yesterdays

One of the great natural wonders of the Sierras was lost forever early this century, but not without a fight.

It's a classic example of preservation versus development, one that set a pattern for future confrontations.

Century Magazine, as a key player in the national debate, pushed the issue into the public arena, made its position known and won over thousands of supporters to apply political pressure.

Central to the issue was whether or not Congress should allow San Francisco to turn Hetch Hetchy Valley into a water reservoir, thereby destroying a large area of Yosemite National Park. Century Magazine played a key role in the debate, raising the public's awareness of the issue and its willingness to get involved.

Century tapped an emerging interest in preservation, and in the process, transformed it from an elitist desire for the genteel lifestyle to a national fascination

with wilderness.

From a broader perspective, Century mirrored a demographic transition in America. The second half of the 19th century brought population expansion westward, industrialization of eastern cities, and uninhibited economic expansion. In 1860 the total U.S. population was 31 million, and by 1920 it had grown to 106 million, but the economy was growing faster. Preservation was not a major concern for a country bent on economic growth.

Vacant public lands were being rapidly put to use. The Homestead Act of 1862 gave away 160 acres to those willing to carve a farm out of the wilderness. Congress granted 94 million acres to feed economic growth in the years following the Civil War. For example, to build its Duluth-Portland-Tacoma route, Northern Pacific was given 33 square miles for every mile of track it laid.

The destruction of wilderness continued. Between 1907 and 1920, vacant public lands shrunk more than 50 percent. This provided the setting for unrestricted business practices in the nation's dominant industries. Environmental degradation resulted from timber harvesting, mining, and railroading.

Slowly, the public was becoming dissatisfied with big business and was losing the "growth and progress" mentality. City dwellers began to see the value in wilderness as a haven from the filth and crowding of urban areas. John Muir was encouraged by the increasing numbers of vacationers in wild areas.

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

An editorial written for Century in 1903 welcomed the trend toward enjoying nature, which was taking on "the aspect of a cult." Popular magazines printed articles on travel throughout the 19th century. After the Civil War, attention turned toward the "Wild West." Photographs and stereoscopes advertised its splendor. Accounts of cross-country trips were eagerly read.

From the start, Century chronicled the exploration of wilderness areas in the words of its participants. It published the first accounts of expeditions to the Upper Yellowstone and to the Colorado Canyons. In the 1890's, this interest led to John Muir's many articles on Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy.

Yosemite Valley was "discovered" by white men as early as 1833. It did not attract attention, however, until after the Gold Rush of 1849 had delivered intent hordes to California. A military contingent led by Major James Savage in 1851 to punish the Yosemite Indians - who were resisting land-grabbing miners - spent some time in the valley. Not favorably impressed with the scenic beauty, Savage was said to have commented, "it's a hell of a place!"

In 1864 President Lincoln signed a bill to designate Yosemite a state park, granted to California "upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort and recreation and shall be held inalienable for all times." For Congress and the President to set aside land for non-utilitarian purposes represented a moderation of the prevalent "growth and progress" attitude. But the Valley was not yet safe.



Robert Underwood Johnson, editor of Century from 1873 to 1913, became interested in Yosemite Valley when he camped there with Muir in 1889. Johnson convinced Muir to write articles about Yosemite to attract general attention and propose boundaries for a national park. Within a few months, Yosemite National Park was established (at first called a forest reservation). This was accomplished in part with a lobbying effort by Southern Pacific Railroad, eager to build a tourist trade in the Sierras.

With this development, however, the wilderness was still compromised. The state park encircled by Yosemite was subject to development while the forest reserve was more protected. Johnson continued to write articles in Century and other publications, arguing for a single national park. California fought bitterly to maintain control of the state park, a valuable resource. In 1906, the two areas were successfully merged as a national park.

The battle over Hetch Hetchy began in 1906. San Francisco, claiming a shortage of fresh water, asked the Federal government for permission to dam the Toulomne River at the end of the high walled Valley. Because of the more general enthusiasm for wilderness that existed at the time, the preservationists' arguments for Hetch Hetchy found a receptive audience and national concern for the Valley developed at once.

Secretary of the Interior Ethan A. Hitchcock sided with the preservationists and refused to grant permission to flood the Valley. His successor, James R. Garfield, leaned in the opposite direction and approved the project in May, 1908. Thoroughly aroused, defenders of the Valley claimed the City could find other sources of water; the City replied it could not. Each side contended that it had the public interest in mind, and that its opponents spoke for private interests. The political arena widened when responsibility for the decision was dumped on Congress, which wrestled with it for the next five years.

In his 1908 Century editorial, "A High Price To Pay For Water," Johnson set forth his defense of the Valley.

"The Administration's position is not that the step is a last resort and that no other source is adequate, but that Hetch Hetchy affords the most abundant and cheapest available supply of pure water... The fact remains that this is a great reservation....it is to be withdrawn from the use of the people of the whole United States and given to the City of San

Francisco. This involves a new principle and a dangerous precedent, and is a tremendous price for the Nation to pay for San Francisco's water."

Even the Mayor of San Francisco, James D. Phalan, got into the fray. In response to one of Johnson's guest editorials Phelan wrote in Outlook magazine that the dam would catch "storm waters, now riotously running to waste... why deplore the loss of a mosquito meadow?"

Muir was doing his part to raise public sentiment for preserving the valley by describing its unique geology, its beauty and his moving experiences in it. Muir had ridden an avalanche, stood through an earthquake and observed the shimmering moon from behind the Yosemite Fall's rushing waters. This may not have been what most people expected from a national park, but Muir convinced many of the need to preserve the valley. Public support was increasing.

The turning point for Hetch Hetchy came in the summer of 1913 when another bill granting the Valley to San Francisco was introduced into Congress. Preservationists were caught off-guard and the bill passed the House of Representatives. Johnson and his National Committee to the Preservation of the Yosemite National Park sent protest literature to 1,418 newspapers and printed two pamphlets on its own. The public jumped to its feet. Hundreds of newspapers and all but a few West Coast papers took the side of wilderness. In one month, 5000 letters opposing the bill poured into the office of one senator, while President Woodrow Wilson was besieged with requests that he defend the national park.

Despite organized protest, the Senate passed the bill and President Wilson signed it into law December 19, 1913, "yielding to the tremendous pressure from California and to the support it had from Cabinet members," as Johnson saw it.

In the 24 years that Century had covered the issue of how best to use the Valley, it did a genuine job of informing the public about why it was worth saving - or at least worth fighting for. For many, wilderness took on a value of its own, equal to or greater than the value of a reservoir.



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Bellingham Citizens Seek Peace in Central America

By Nancy Uding and Chris Pastorino

The Bellingham Citizens for Peace in Central America (BCPCA) is sponsoring the Central America Peace Initiative, to be on the city's November 4, 1986 ballot. As the government of the United States pours millions of tax dollars into military aid for the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and to the contras of Nicaragua, peace in these Central American countries becomes more and more elusive. As the people of the U.S. become more aware of the problems in Central America, we are also becoming more willing to urge our government to find peaceful, not military, solutions to those conflicts.

Across the United States, a movement called "Cities for Peace in Central America" is forming. The people of San Francisco, Boston, Seattle, Eugene, Boulder, Olympia, and most recently, Ann Arbor, Michigan have voted in favor of ballot initiatives supporting peaceful solutions to the war and repression in Central America. Now the city of Bellingham is joining this popular movement. The BCPCA believes that when the citizens of the United States address these issues on a local level, the U.S. Government cannot help but support peaceful solutions.

Should the Central America Peace Initiative be passed, the people of Bellingham will support peaceful solutions to conflicts in central America, through the establishment of a Citizens Commission. The Citizens Commission would operate, without the use of City Funds, to relay the following information to our representatives in Congress, (Rep. Al Swift, Sen. Dan Evans, and Sen. Slade Gorton) and to the President of the United States:

The people of Bellingham support the settlement of conflicts in Central America through peaceful negotiations rather than through military means; we oppose military aid from the U.S. to the governments of EL Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; we oppose aid of any type to the contras of Nicaragua; and we suggest that the Federal funds now being used for military purposes in Central America be redirected to promote development of vital services for the poor and underprivileged in the United States and in Central America.

The Citizen's Commission will consist of five members, appointed by the mayor, and representing at least the business, labor, religious, and university sectors of

Bellingham. During the two years of the Commission's work, after it has contacted Congress and the President, it will investigate and prepare reports for the City Council and the Mayor on the effects of U.S. foreign aid to Central America, and recommend additional actions to be taken by Bellingham. They will also prepare a quarterly update for the Mayor and The City Council on progress towards realizing peaceful solutions to war and repression in Central America.

The people of Bellingham, as taxpayers, voters, and U.S. citizens, are ultimately responsible for the distribution of our tax dollars and for the actions of our government. Opinion polls have consistently shown that the majority of U.S. citizens oppose military intervention in Central America, yet our military aid to these countries has exceeded one billion in taxpayer's dollars since 1980, and continues to increase each year. Despite our incredible expenditures, and the Central American countries to which we supply military aid are no closer to peace today than they were in 1980.

The desire for peace is on everyone's mind these days: it is now being put into words which will have a great effect on the people who can actually make peace a reality in Central America. The Central America Peace Initiative is an opportunity for Bellingham citizens to let our voices be heard, to make our contribution to peace.

The initiative is presently in its petition stage --- BCPCA volunteers have gathered over one third of the 3,179 signatures needed to put the initiative on the November ballot. The BCPCA is also looking for help with the petitioning; if you would like to take a more active role in peace seeking, contact Nancy Uding, Initiative Coordinator, at 734-6999, or drop by the Bellingham Peace Center (203 W. Holly, Rm. 27) Saturday mornings at 10:00 for orientation and training.

Let's help Bellingham be one of the many U.S. "Cities for Peace". Be a responsible citizen -- let your voice be heard!!!!

How to voice your opinion

REGISTER TO VOTE IN B'HAM:

Bring identification to V.U. 227, your local fire station, or City Hall.

WHEN YOU ARE REGISTERED:

Petitions can be signed at the following locations: The Peace Resource Center in the Viking Union, Village Books, Community Food Co-op, The Cookie Cafe, Lynn's Restaurant and others.



Hans Christian Andersen

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Afraid of unbridled passion, intuition, right brain sway
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A woman squats in the brush
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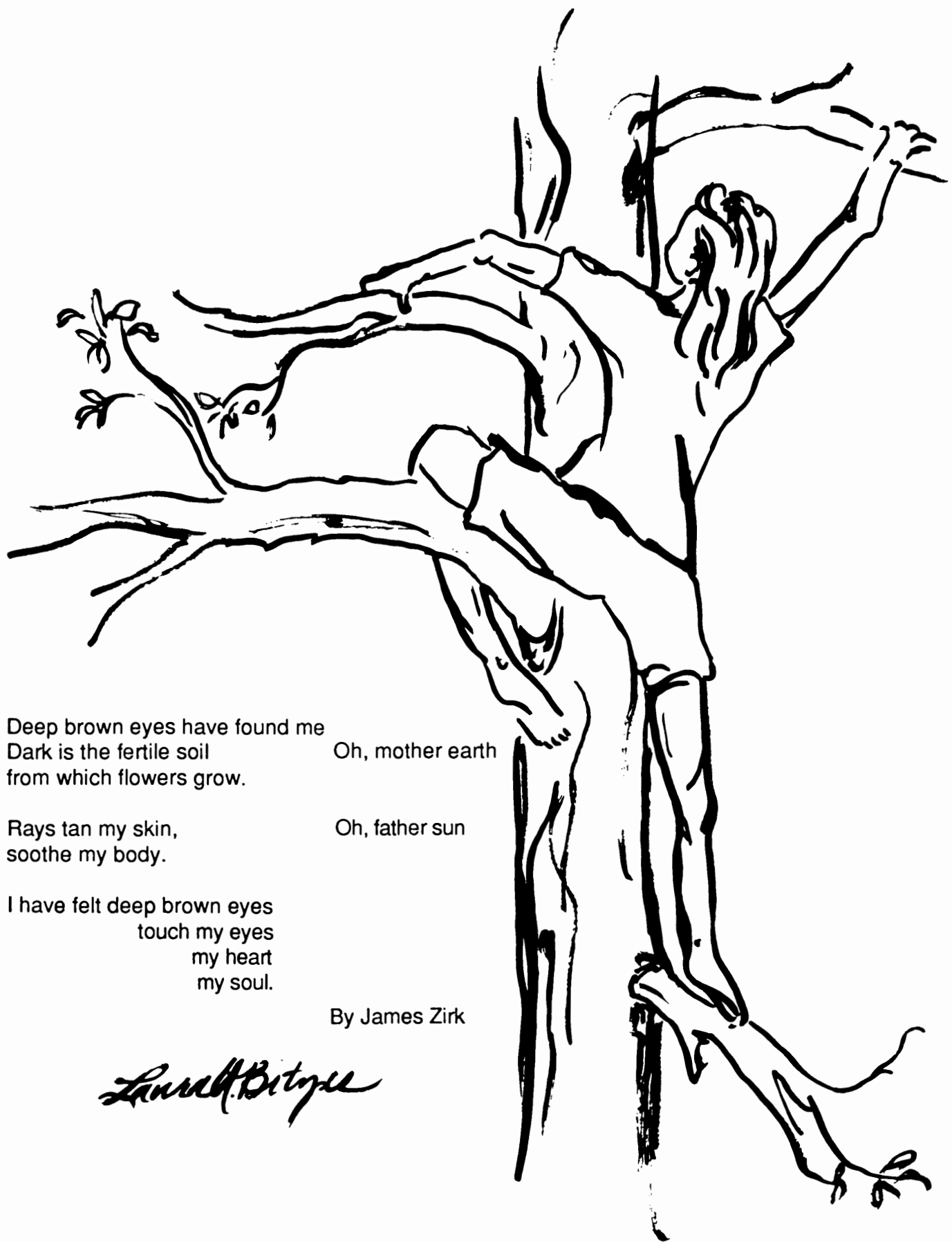
Given our capacity to
learn and unlearn

We move forward
progressing as individuals
and small institutions

To then be slapped
full in the face by our
present administrations
tunnel-vision-solutions to
complex problems

Bombing Libya set me back
and I do not even live there.

By M. Kane



Deep brown eyes have found me
Dark is the fertile soil
from which flowers grow.

Oh, mother earth

Rays tan my skin,
soothe my body.

Oh, father sun

I have felt deep brown eyes
touch my eyes
my heart
my soul.

By James Zirk

Laurel H. Bitz